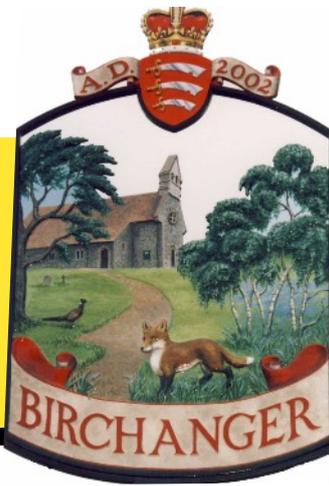


Birchanger

June 2014



Magazine

Issue 138

CLAIRE AND KATIE RUN FOR LIFE

On Sunday the 18th May Claire Jones & Katie Martin both Birchanger residents took part in the Tesco cancer research 10k run for race for life.

Claire is the entertainments manager of Birchanger sports and social club and Katie works behind the bar.

They would like to say a massive thank you to everybody for their continuous support and Sponsors as they nearly tripled their target raising a massive £1400.

The training was tough and some of you may have seen the girls out at 6 am running around the village.

Unfortunately for the girls it was a scorcher of a day but they managed to finish the race in a decent time. The atmosphere was incredible and it gave them the willpower to finish the race, They returned to Birchanger victorious to re-hydrate with a few wines.

The girls took part in the race because it's a good cause very close to their hearts and what a great team they made too.



We are very proud of them!

Tired but triumphant

Thanks to Tom

I'm sure we have all noticed the state of the grass verges in the village. The one at Duck end corner was particularly over grown. That was until Tom Harrington decided enough was enough and took it upon himself to give it a necessary trim. Careless of hard hats, risk assessments and Hi viz Jackets, Tom has made the village just a bit safer. So thanks Tom from all of us council tax payers who are still waiting for Essex county council.

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Elizabeth Godwin

A New Look For Our Surgeries?

Just as work on the new surgery at Stansted is scheduled to start, comes news of yet another shake up in Primary Health Care. Under new plans for the Primary Care of residents in West Essex, which means us, there will be fewer, larger, "hub surgeries", catering for at least 20,000 patients each, and offering a much wider range of services all under the same one stop shop.

The surgeries are expected to include the integration of the GP practices with community services, which will include social care, health visitors, district nurses and paediatrics. GPs will still retain personal patient lists, but intend to care for the vulnerable and at risk groups in different ways. Those with long term conditions will have their own clinician who will personally oversee their care, and those with multiple long term conditions will be offered a specialist team to help them manage their conditions. There will also be commuter clinics operating at weekends and in the evenings by another GP team. The aim is to offer 24/7 care and keep us away from hospital.

How is this all going to work? It seems that there will be greater reliance on nurse practitioners who will manage their own lists of patients with GP support. Pharmacists will be encouraged to triage and treat minor illness in the pharmacy, they will be able to write prescriptions for a limited list of medicines, take on a greater role in managing repeat prescriptions, and routine monitoring such as blood pressure and straightforward conditions such as allergies. Optometrists from the high street will be able to manage or refer patients with eye conditions.

Where will all this happen? Well most surgeries will struggle to find the space for this, and I doubt that even the new Stansted surgery will be large enough. I also cannot help wondering from whence the money required for all this will actually come. Some sites will be run at community and the larger hospitals, but there will be far fewer GP practices, single handed practices will disappear, and the patient case load will be much higher. One thing is for certain, that unless we are acutely ill or have major surgery, we will be kept out of hospital!

Council Wiring Inspection.

In order to make sure that the properties which are council owned are maintained in the best condition, the District Council has employed local contractors who will be carrying out the work in the coming weeks. They will write to those involved to make an appointment.

However the same safety precautions applies. Please make sure that you check the contractors identification before you let them into your home. It should come from the council. There are a lot of unscrupulous people out there. If in doubt, call the council on 01799 510510.

Members give the Club the OK

Last year the club carried out a highly successful refurbishment of the toilets, installed a toilet for the disabled and repaired the roof. This was the first phase of a scheme which would see the club opened up, with the Bowls Club moving their equipment to a pavilion outside. The decision was highly controversial, with both club members as well as the Bowls Club members raising their concerns. One thing that everyone did agree on was, was that doing nothing was not an option as the club is in urgent need of renovation and upgrading, if it is to attract a larger membership.

In the end the proposal to refurbish and to open the club by moving the Bowls Club partition was carried by just 5 votes. Who knows, maybe removing the partition will mean that more people get to see the Bowls Club in action and be tempted to join?



Moth Mayhem.

On one of the admittedly infrequent occasions when I move my furniture, usually because something has dropped down behind it, I found what seemed at first to be a collection of slimmer and slightly longer ant's eggs. However, on closer inspection I realised that some of these "eggs" were actually tiny white grubs with rudimentary sets of legs, which were all gorging themselves on my carpet.

Then I moved other items, only to find at least half a dozen other sites had grubs, eggs and moths on the go. Something had to be done, so several shopping trips later and a thorough spraying and treating of the assorted sites, I thought I had finally removed the little menaces. Wrong! A few weeks later showed that although they were not quite so extensive, the little pests were back and some had had the gall to turn into pretty and very tiny moths, who were busily starting the cycle all over again.

At least that is what they thought. I had other ideas. I had heard that there was a service for professionally disposing of the tiny menaces, run by Uttlesford District Council, so I called them in. This involved me moving every item of furniture away from the walls and vacating the premises. Problem was it was pouring with rain and the dog, cat and myself, were less than happy with the prospect. In the end I was confined to the kitchen for the next three hours.

I did not actually see what the two men who came did, but they came armed with a very professional looking spraying machine and the carpets were damp when they had finished. I was not allowed to vacuum the house for the next three days, whoopee! A good excuse at last! Eventually the furniture was put back and what passes for normality returned.

But will the moths? That remains to be seen. The District Council will visit again, so presumably the same thing will happen all over again. This time I will be better prepared for it. The service is costed according to the size of the house and for a four bedroom cost is £105 including a follow up visit. I spent about half that on a load of ineffective sprays, strips, tablets and other paraphernalia.

Meanwhile, if you are a little moth, and I see you, your chances of survival in my house now are zilch!

Pupils are Going to School!

We hear a great deal about long term truanting and children managing to skip most of their school days one way or another. Now it seems that the "skiver" days are definitely coming to an end in Essex.

Not that this was too much of a problem in Birchanger, but throughout Essex pupils attendance has increased by over 29%. This may be down to the schools very proactive role now in discovering just after register, just why the missing children are not in school, if a parent has not previously told the school about their absence. Holidays if taken without the school's permission are listed as unauthorised absences and parents are fined accordingly. Some find this very hard when they are faced with a £50 fine for just taking a child out of school 30 minutes before the end of the day to catch a long haul flight, but throughout the country the rules are very strictly upheld. They stop short at medical certificates, but that might even come. Imagine the queue to see the doctor then!

When I think about it, it is surprising that the improved attendance figures are not even higher, but parents now

balance holiday costs against the fine and decide accordingly.

The end of choose and book.

Do you remember the Choose and Book system, which allowed you to select your own hospitals and consultants from your home computer, when a trip to a specialist was required? Your own special code was created and you could either phone or make the booking on line?

Seemed like a good idea, but apparently it was underused. It seems that the powers that be failed to understand that a large number of elderly patients either did not have a computer or were unable to access the system. Also it would seem that the chosen hospital and consultant rejected the would be patients on numerous occasions and GP intervention was required. Choosing where you go for treatment is a great idea.

The Choose and Book System started in 2004, but for so many patients the GPs, as the commissioners of secondary or hospital care, made their own arrangements for their patients, believing they were acting in the patient's best interests, but not always consulting them it seems. They say use it or lose it and so we are going to lose Choose and Book ostensibly through under use. However, what is rather puzzling me, is, that there is going to be an "e Booking" system to replace it. I do rather wonder what difference this will make, other than in the name?

Would you like to remember the start of World War 1?

The centenary of the start of World War 1 is on August 4th. Until recently I did not realise that war was not actually declared until 11 pm on that day. It was the start of the loss of far too many young lives and from which the participating nations have taken years to recover and it impacts on the families who lost their sons to this day.

There are a lot of names on our own War Memorial and many Birchanger families lost family members which left a lasting legacy on those they left behind. Many more were severely injured which also impacted on their families as some were to need care for the rest of their lives.

All over the country the British Legion is inviting those villages and towns with their own War Memorials, to join in an Act of Remembrance. This will take the form of lighting special candles at the four corners of the memorial at 11 pm on 4th August. Whatever else we do is up to us.

In Birchanger we are proposing to invite everyone who would like to participate to a venue near to the Church. There people could enjoy a glass of wine or light refreshment, before proceeding to the War Memorial.

After a few readings reflecting the suffering and experience of the First World War, at exactly 11 pm, the four candles would be lit.

If you are interested in this, would like to be part of the occasion, or would like to find out more about it, please call me on 812793. It would help to know just how many people would like to come.

Contact the Fire Service for a Free Smoke Alarm.

Our firemen are not just there to fight fire it seems. They would like to prevent it happening in the first place. This means a free smoke alarm with installation, which includes free advice on Fire Prevention for everyone. To claim your free smoke alarm and to find out just how to stop fire in your house, contact the local fire station on 01277 222531.

Mindless Thieves!

Yes they are back. bored in the long summer evenings they decided to take things out on the allotment holders! six sheds on the allotments were broken into by having their padlocks quite literally ripped off. these were mainly wooden sheds, as the metal seemed to pose too much of a challenge to these boy wonders.

It seems that it is very little use putting a padlock on a wooden shed. The answer would appear to be to keep all valuable tools and equipment at home and not to bother to lock the shed at all, certainly for now, unless the shed is made from metal.

If you would like further advice and would like to discuss the issue further please call Alex Stuart on his correct mobile which is 07846467575. If you do see something which concerns you and your concerns are urgent please use the 999 number.

New safety lighting at the hall

New outside lighting has been installed at the church hall by Safe Circuit Electrics The lights will stay on for 20 minutes when activated by people leaving the hall in the dark. Safe Circuit Electrics is Paul Ferret tel 07815157644 or p.ferret@safecircuit electrics.co.uk

Duck Update.

Mrs Duck definitely has a nest somewhere, but so far I have yet to find it. The two males have definitely dumped her now, leaving her to sort out and sit on the eggs single handedly. They view their part in the proceedings as definitely over and they have now become the very best of friends, scenes of last month apparently completely forgotten. They even visit us for food occasionally. Some might say, typical males.

The nest must be nearby as Mrs Duck has developed a routine. Spending all day on the nest, she leaves it at around 5pm each day, takes a hurried dip and a drink at the pond, then she rushes up the garden to eat the food which we have left out for her as fast as she can. Then it is back to the pond for more ablutions, a drink, and a bit of a swim before flying off on a zig zag to mislead any observers trying to locate the nest. She is clearly nesting, as her rather tatty chest feathers show.

Hopefully she will successfully rear her ducklings, but there have been other ducks before her and only one was successful. The fox has returned and as many hen owners know could wreak his only devastation. We shall see, hopefully soon.

Tai Chi in Birchanger



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Birchanger Church Hall

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Or visit our website www.taichiacademy.org

News from Birchanger Social Club



The works include the incorporation of the bowls club pavilion into the main body of the club. It is to be noted that the club will be working with the bowls team over the coming months to ensure that they are not only accommodated during the changes, but that the facility they end up with will help make the bowls even more of a feature of the club. Bi-folding glass doors will lead straight onto the green, hopefully not only allowing better viewing for the bowlers, but the opportunity to attract even more players to this sport. Should any members have any questions or suggestions why not get in touch through our facebook page. We will certainly keep everyone informed of progress as we embark on this exciting project to bring BSSC well and truly into the 21st century (even if our prices are more like those from the 19th century)

After a thorough and feisty debate the members have now officially voted through Phase 3 of building works where we will see the club undergo a major revamp to the benefit of all members. On the night the members were given a set of three options 1) Full refurb of the club and amendment of the layout 2) Full refurb of the existing layout 3) Do nothing. The club were excited to see the engagement of its members as each person made their point. It really was inspirational to see the passion each person conveyed regarding the proposals. The vote went through with a clear majority for the full refurb and new layout for the club, and it was interesting to note that option 3 of doing nothing received no votes. It is hoped the works will make the club an even more appealing space for members, with improved sound and lighting for entertainment nights, better seating and tables for those partaking in some of our high quality, great value meals as well as improved facilities for the different sporting teams.



The club continually strives to offer the best value and quality wines to its members. As part of listening to member requirements and requests we are deciding to give the members the opportunity to help us choose the wine we serve over the next 6 months. For a mere £5 members are invited to join us for an evening of wine and cheese where you will be able to sample the proposed wines and vote on which is your favourite. The evening which will be open to everybody (18+ and a member), will see us testing a number of different grapes, colours and vintages. Spit or swallow – you decide!





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Sports & Social Club



Live Entertainment - Great Food - Excellent Bar - Snooker - Darts - Pool – Football - Cricket - Bowls



Treasure Chest Draw – 27th June + 18th July



The prize keeps growing,
but you got to be in it to win it

Julie Nevada – 5th July (TBC at time of print)

ENTERTAINMENT/ SPORTING FIXTURES:

Jamie Callis – 21st June



Jamie Callis is a talented and versatile performer who can bring the sounds from the decades to the live stage. Having performed for Graham Norton, acted alongside Kevin Spacey and appeared alongside Chesney Hawkes, this guy is the One and Only!



Julie is a recognised national and international cabaret artiste who has been a solo performer since the age of 15. She has shared the bill with the likes of Jimmy Jones, Mike Reid, Les Dennis and Tom O'Connor in a career which has seen her always in demand.

16th July – Wine and Cheese Evening



Only £5 to help us choose next season's wine list!

Charity Race Night – 12th July



Birchanger Sports & Social Club, 229 Birchanger Lane, Birchanger CM23 5QJ
Tel: 01279 813441

Email: club@birchanger.com Follow us at: www.birchangerclub.com

Remembering the battle for Normandy

During the year 1984 the 40th anniversary of the D Day landings my husband and I joined a small party to go and visit the Normandy beaches. My Husband Syd had been wounded during the fighting for Caen and was flown home leaving behind many friends in his platoon from the South Staffordshire Regiment.(See the historical note)

We stayed in a chateau in Normandy. Three of our party were Americans one of whom was returning to Utah beach where he landed on D Day itself!

First we went to the American Airborne Museum at St Mere Eglise where "Angelo" discovered a photo of himself with some of his fellow "GIs" in a newspaper taken at the time.

A small village close to St Mere Eglise was the first liberated in France and to show their gratitude The villagers present a certificate of thanks to every returning "Liberator". So we were able to witness this poignant ceremony.

After walking on Utah beach we visited the Church at St Mere Eglise where during the parachute drop, one paratrooper landed on the church tower trapped by his harness. This was reproduced for the film "The Longest day".

There are 18 British cemeteries in that part of France. After some research we discovered that the South Staffs casualties are buried in the cemetery at Caen. All of the graves were beautifully kept. Through misty eyes we discovered that most of Syd's platoon were named on the headstones. Their average ages were 18 or 19. Had he not been wounded, his name might also have been there.

As some of the names there had been guests at our wedding it was for us a very sad and moving occasion.

Mary Glozier.

Historical note

Syd Glozier Joined up in 1943 he was 19 years old. He did his training under the auspices of the Berkshire Regiment but was subsequently transferred to the 7th Battalion of the South Staffordshires. During the build up to D Day he was billeted in Cliftonville near Margate.

Syd's parent formation the 59th Division landed in France at Juno Beach on June 26th. The fighting in the bridgehead was pretty well continual so his unit 176 Brigade was initially engaged in reconnaissance prior to Operation Charnwood that began on July 8th, it was one of a series of operations designed to encircle the city of Caen. The division was opposed by 12th SS Panzer "Hitler Youth" division. Both sides sustained heavy casualties.

On July 16th 176 brigade was engaged in Operation Pomegranate where further heavy losses were incurred. The division was then rested and received Canadian officers as so many of the original Divisional officers had been lost.

Syd's final action began on August 6th when 176 brigade was tasked with crossing the Orne river and after fording the river under fire, dug in for several days until they were forced to withdraw. When in Syd's words " All Hell broke loose and the Bren gun I was carrying fell off my shoulders and I fell into the water, others pulled me out and up the bank where I found I had lost the use of my arm and had a hole in my chest that breathed with me. I was told to make my way back via the woods but I collapsed on the road. I was rescued by a sergeant of Mortar Ops who took me to an aid station in a garden wheelbarrow. Eventually I was flown home in a Dakota." He was in France for about 7 weeks.

So great were the losses in 2nd Army that 59th Division was broken up as replacements for other units on August 18th

The division historian commented that "Overnight, five years' training and five weeks fighting had been relegated to the past."

School News

It is very near to the end of the school year, which is always a bitter sweet time. The long holidays are just on the horizon and when school is back again in September, it will be a time of change for everyone as well as a time to say goodbye. Year 6 will go to their new schools, and everyone will move up a year in school, with new teachers and their class rooms.

For now there has been Sports Day, various outings throughout the school, but the main focus for the Junior children is their annual school play. This event is greatly looked forward to by parents, friends and children alike. It has become a must have ticket, so there have been additional performances slotted in.

The dates of the performances are:- Monday July 14th, which is also the first full dress rehearsal, Tuesday 15th and Wednesday 16th are the main performance dates, but everyone is welcome to all three.

Admission is by ticket only and tickets can be obtained at the school.

The play is not just for the children's relatives and friends, it is for everyone who would like to join in with the fun and enjoyment which the occasion always brings.

An appeal to reason

Some of us love to sit outside in the garden at weekends some times with friends and some times all alone. We have a glass of wine or two and set up the barbeque.

We are not alone, many people that have worked hard all the week look forward to their weekends from now to the end of summer doing what we do.

There are in life people not only in Birchanger but the whole world over that wait for us to start to enjoy our experience of relaxing and chilling out to decide that their lawns need cutting. Now, the lawn can be cut any morning including Saturday and Sunday but no it has to be cut at the weekend in the middle of the afternoon.

You know who you are, you sad people. why not give every body that wants to drop out on a Saturday or Sunday afternoon and evening a break. Please cut your grass in the morning, and join the throng and drop out with a beer and enjoy the afternoons.

Tea Room At the Church Hall



Every Wednesday

From March 5th
2.00 till 4.00



Everyone welcome

In aid of Hall maintenance funds

A letter from Phyllis

I would like to thank all of the kind people who came to my aid after a fall at Wood Lane and who stayed with me until the ambulance arrived which was very much appreciated. A special thanks to Jill who rang my daughter and ensured that all was well at the house. Thank you all again, what a lovely bunch you are.
Phyllis Hill.

Birchanger Bags

Come along and join us on the last
Wednesday of every Month
Meeting Room in Village Hall
Doors open at 7.30. for 8 – 10 p.m.

Forthcoming meetings

Wed. 25th June – Fun 'n Games Evening
Wed. 30th July – Barry Kaufmann-Wright 'The
Wildlife Man' (Retired Wildlife Crime Officer
for the Police Force for 22 years and Author)
Talking on 'Wildlife in the Garden'

"Musical Director wanted!"

Newly formed male singing group in
the village is looking for a musician/
musical director to help with
rehearsals. 2 hours per week. Anyone
with the ability to read music who has
a bit of time to spare as well as a
sense of humour and wishes to join
us in a relaxed and easy going music
session would be most welcome.
Please contact Tony: 01279 813007

Sudoku

Here is a simple sudoku puzzle.

The rules for solving the puzzle are :- each
horizontal row and vertical column must have
the digits 1 to 9 with no digits repeated.

The grid is also divided into 9, 3 x 3 boxes
which must also contain digits 1 to 9 again
with no digits repeated.

The solution is on the back page.

			1	9				
5	1	7			4	6	8	
			7	6		5		1
7		9			2			6
	5	1				4	7	
2			5			3		8
3		8		1	7			
	7	6	8			2	1	4
				4	6			

Weekly events At the Club:

Weekly	Event	When
Saturdays	Meat Draw	1.00pm
Saturdays	Bingo Lottery	Ask bar staff
Mondays	Quiz night	9.00pm
Wednesdays	Steak night	Evenings
Thursdays	Bingo night	08.30pm
Fridays	Tote Draw	Evenings

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Church Hall Hire

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Please contact

Mrs Trudy Revell
01279 812309

Summer Lunch

In aid of St Mary's Birchanger

Sunday 29th June
Immediately after the Sunday service

At Moorswood 273 Birchanger Lane

For tickets contact Pam Lee
on 01279 815938 or 07702171744

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Village Diary

June/July

June

29th 11.00 am St Mary's Matins

29th Summer Lunch at Moorswood

July

6th 11.00 am St Mary's Holy Communion

13th 11.00 am St Mary's Matins

20th 11.00 am St Mary's Family Service

27th 11.00 am St Mary's Holy Communion

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6	8	2	1	9	5	7	4	3
5	1	7	3	2	4	6	8	9
4	9	3	7	6	8	5	2	1
7	3	9	4	8	2	1	5	6
8	5	1	6	3	9	4	7	2
2	6	4	5	7	1	3	9	8
3	4	8	2	1	7	9	6	5
9	7	6	8	5	3	2	1	4
1	2	5	9	4	6	8	3	7

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